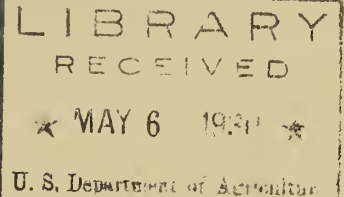


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THE HOUSEHOLD CALENDAR



A radio talk by Mrs. Rowena Schmidt Carpenter, Assistant to the Chief, Bureau of Home Economics, delivered through Station WRC and 34 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, April 25, 1930.

In a few days, stimulated by National Better Homes Week, each of you will be deciding what to do to make your home more beautiful, more comfortable, or in some way more livable. Since "seeing is believing" for many of us, I encourage you to visit any exhibit or open house your community has planned for Better Homes Week. Our exhibit here in Washington has natural significance this year because it is located in the National Girl Scouts Little House at 18th and New York Avenue. This house is really a modern reproduction of the John Howard Payne homestead in East Hampton, Long Island, which according to tradition was the inspiration of the song Home Sweet Home.

Whether you visit a Better Homes demonstration or not these next few days, I hope each of you will make it a point to turn your eyes on your own home in friendly criticism, looking for some place to make a bit of improvement. Perhaps you will find as someone I know found last year that the thing most in need of change in her home was her own time schedule. Though she had a small modern house, well arranged and equipped, she was busy with her household duties every minute of the day. She seemed never to have time for resting, for reading or other recreation. This homemaker appealed to the Bureau for what she termed an "ideal" time schedule, and her letter was turned over to Miss Hildegard Kneeland to answer. What Miss Kneeland told her, she would also tell you if you wrote her for a time schedule. There is no one ideal schedule. A plan of work must be made to suit the conditions of the workshop and the worker, and the needs of the particular family. You as chief worker or perhaps as the only worker in your home decide to draw up a time schedule. Your first step is to make a written list of all of your regular tasks, including even those which come only once in several weeks. In front of each task you indicate how often it must be done; daily, twice a week, every third week, or otherwise. And after each task you write down the time it requires you to do it, in minutes or hours. You may find that you have to estimate roughly the time required for some of your household duties because you haven't been accustomed to timing them. In that case you will remember to note the time,-- to record it, when the task is done again. If you are uncertain about many items, you may find it best to keep a record of your time on every duty for a week before trying to make a schedule.

When at last your statement of work is finished, you are ready to make the schedule itself. With the list before you, distribute the various tasks through the seven days of the week, arranging the work for each day in the order in which it is to be done, and recording before each task the time of starting and of finishing it. You will find as every homemaker does when she first writes out a schedule that a good deal of juggling of items back and forth is necessary before each day will run smoothly, with meals and other definitely fixed items coming at the proper time. Jobs that are done only periodically, for instance every other week, can be scheduled to use the same hours so that some of them can be tended to each week.

(over)

It sounds rather simple in ~~trying~~ it over, and would be if only routine work entered the plan, but irregular jobs, unexpected brief or long interruptions, and sometimes sickness or other emergency demands make it seem at times impossible to keep up with the schedule. A part of this difficulty may be prevented if a little leeway is left in each morning and afternoon plan for unexpected demands, and if time is allowed for rest, leisure, and irregular duties.

I want to encourage you to try to schedule your time if you never have, because there is no better way to find out where effort and time can be saved in housekeeping. You may feel that you have so much to do and are working so efficiently that no improvement could be made; that your only need is for outside help in order to give you leisure. Perhaps that is so, but if no help is available, you may in the study of your own schedule find that you can simplify some of your tasks, and even cross a few from your list entirely. Maybe you will need to re-arrange your working equipment to save time and steps; perhaps you will choose for dinner dishes easier to prepare, and select for the children garments quicker to iron. Be sure you save some time in the schedule for yourself, for recreation and for keeping in trim.

And now I must bid you goodbye, Homemakers, until next Friday.